

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /099 W

-----118223 241046Z /17

P 241011Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6445

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 04825

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, JA, CH

SUBJECT: SINO-JAPANESE PFT -- MOFA MAKING PLANS FOR SONODA

VISIT TO PEKING

REF: (A) MOSCOW 05569 NOTAL, (B) TOKYO 4399, (C) PEKING

0704, (D) TOKYO 3417

SUMMARY: PM FUKUDA APPEARS TO HAVE GIVEN GO-AHEAD FOR  
FORMAL RESUMPTION OF PFT NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINESE THROUGH  
VISIT TO PEKING BY FONMIN SONODA, POSSIBLY IN MID-APRIL.  
ALTHOUGH CAREFUL TO KEY APPROVAL OF SONODA VISIT TO  
CURRENT INTENSIVE ROUND OF SOUNDINGS WITHIN LDP, FUKUDA'S  
ABILITY TO STEP BACK FROM THIS DECISION APPEARS INCREAS-  
INGLY LIMITED AS PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENTUM FOR TREATY BUILDS.  
END SUMMARY.

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1. DESPITE INITIAL NEGATIVE REACTION TO CHINESE 4-POINT  
PROPOSAL (REFTELS A AND B), PRIMIN HEARD VERY UPBEAT  
REPORT FROM CGP SECGEN YANO MARCH 17, WHICH LEAD TO  
EXTENSIVE ROUND OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL DISCUSSIONS. MARCH 22  
PRIMIN MET WITH FONMIN SONODA, CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY ABE  
AND RESPONSIBLE FONO OFFICIALS AND, ALTHOUGH STORY WAS

TIGHTLY HELD, APPEARS TO HAVE DECIDED TO RENEW NEGOTIATIONS ON PFT BY SENDING SONODA TO PEKING IN NEAR FUTURE (REFTEL C).

2. AT DIET COMMITTEE SESSION MARCH 23, FONMIN SONODA WAS ASKED BY SOCIALIST IT COULD BE ASSUMED FONMIN WOULD GO TO PEKING FOR RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON PFT SOMETIME BETWEEN APRIL 10 AND 15 -- A PERIOD SANDWICHED IN BETWEEN TWO SCHEDULED STATE VISITS TO JAPAN. SONODA REPLIED, "YOUR SHREWD GUESS IN ONE OF AN EXPERT." THAT AFTERNOON FUKUDA DISCUSSED MATTER WITH LDP SECGEN OHIRA. ALTHOUGH NEITHER FUKUDA NOR OHIRA WOULD COMMENT PUBLICLY, PRESS REPORTED THAT FUKUDA EXPRESSED HIS RESOLVE TO SEND SONODA TO PEKING AND SOLICITED OHIRA'S HELP IN RESOLVING INTRA-LDP DIFFERENCES OVER THIS APPROACH. THEY AGREED TO SCHEDULE A MEETING OF TOP GOVERNMENT AND LDP LEADERS FOR MARCH 27. (EMBOFF INFORMED OHIRA LEFT HITOTSUBASHI ALUMNI MEETING EARLY THAT EVENING ON GROUND HE HAD TO GET ON WITH TASK OF ROUNDING UP BACK-BENCHER SUPPORT FOR PFT.) OUR SOUNDINGS STILL SUGGEST AS INDICATED REFTEL D, THAT DESPITE SOME OPPOSITION FROM PRO-TAIWAN RANKS WITHIN PARTY, SUPPORT WILL BE FORTHCOMING FOR SONODA TRIP. OHIRA HAS ALSO INDICATED, HOWEVER, PARTY WOULD WANT SECOND LOOK AT PFT, AFTER GOVERNMENTSHAD AGREED ON TEXT.

3. MOFA CHINA DIVISION DEPDIR MARCH 24 CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT MOFA WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO PREPARE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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SONODA VISIT TO PEKING BETWEEN APRIL 10 AND 15. OFFICIAL SAID HOWEVER, THAT FINAL DECISION ON TIMING WOULD COME EARLY NEXT WEEK, FOLLOWING MARCH 27 MEETING BETWEEN PRIMIN AND LDP LEADERS. OUR POLITICAL CONTACTS, HOWEVER, THINK IT WILL TAKE LONGER, AT LEAST REMAINDER OF WEEK.

4. COMMENT: POLITICIANS AND JOURNALISTS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED ALL AGREE THAT FUKUDA REMAINS CAUTIOUS ON PFT, BUT WAS BACKED INTO DECISION TO SEND SONODA BY EVENTS OF PAST WEEK. AMONG THESE WERE SECGEN YANO'S URGINGS AND IMPORTANCE OF CGP SUPPORT TO LDP; REPORTS FROM FONOFF THAT NOTHING FURTHER COULD BE ACHIEVED AT BUREAUCRATIC LEVEL; NEAR UNIVERSAL MEDIA SUPPORT FOR PRESSING AHEAD; AND, SERIES OF BROAD SONODA HINTS THAT PRIMIN HAD MADE UP HIS MIND AND SONODA'S PEKING DEPARTURE WAS IMMINENT. THERE ARE ALSO THOSE UNKIND ENOUGH TO SUGGEST THAT FUKUDA CAMP IS SEEKING TO DIVERT PUBLIC ATTENTION FROM SLUGGISH ECONOMY AND RENEWED UPWARD PRESSURE ON YEN. BE THAT AS IT MAY, PM APPARENTLY FELT COMPELLED TO GO ALONG WITH SONODA VISIT, ALTHOUGH HE CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT NO FINAL DECISION ON TIMING WILL BE MADE PENDING PARTY APPROVAL AND POSSIBLE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN PEKING. MANSFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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